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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
YOSHINOBU SHIRAIWA, et al. )  
Application No.: 09/111,731 )  
Filed: July 8, 1998 )  
For: IMAGE PROCESSING )  
APPARATUS, METHOD AND )  
RECORDING MEDIUM THEREFOR )

Examiner: J. Brier  
Group Art Unit: 2672  
September 6, 2002

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. All claims currently pending in the application, including those not amended, are reproduced below. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

9/6/02  
(Date of Deposit)

Andrew D. Mickelsen, Reg. No. 60,957

Signature: Andrew D. Mickelsen Date of Signature: 9/6/02